

Serial No. 10/849,571

Docket No. UMBC-0015

Reply to Office Action of September 28, 2006

REMARKS

Claims 15, 16 and 47-61 are pending in this application. Reconsideration in view of the following Remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the Patent Office's indication that claims 15, 16, 51-54 and 56-59 are allowed. Applicants also appreciate the courtesies extended to Applicant's representative, Rene A. Vazquez, during the December 20, 2006 and March 27, 2007 telephone interviews. The substance of the telephone interviews are incorporated in the remarks set forth below.

The Patent Office rejects claims 47-50, 55, 60 and 61 under 35 U.S.C. 101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter. As discussed and agreed to during the telephone interviews, claims 47-50, 55, 60 and 61 all recite at least one structural element and are thus drawn to statutory subject matter. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 101 is respectfully requested.

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CONCLUSION

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, René A. Vázquez, Esq., at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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